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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ, LUCIANO ESQUEDA, EFRAIN IBARRA, CARLOS LOPEZ, RAMON ALCALA NAVARRO, as individuals and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

GOLD POINT TRANSPORTATION, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 21STCV35686

[*Assigned for All Purposes to Hon. William F. Highberger, Dept. SSC-10*]

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Date: February 10, 2027
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Dept.: SSC-10

Complaint Filed: September 28, 2021
Trial Date: None Set

The Motion of Plaintiffs Francisco Hernandez, Carlos Lopez, Ramon Alcala Navarro and Luciano Esqueda (collectively, "Plaintiffs") for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement came regularly for hearing before this Court on February 10, 2027 at 11:00 a.m. in Department SSC-10. The Court, having considered the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice (the "Settlement"), attached as Exhibit 2 to the Declaration of Scott M. Lidman filed concurrently with the Motion; having considered Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support thereof, and supporting declarations filed therewith; and good cause appearing, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

1. The Court GRANTS preliminary approval of the class action settlement as set forth in the Settlement and finds its terms to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that ultimately could be granted approval by the Court at a Final Fairness Hearing. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court finds that the proposed Settlement Class is ascertainable and that there is a sufficiently well-defined community of interest among the members of the Settlement Class in questions of law and fact. Therefore, for settlement purposes only, the Court grants conditional certification of the following Settlement Class:

> All persons contracted by GOLD POINT in California and classified as an independent contractor driver who operated a truck for GOLD POINT during the Class Period.
>
> The Class Period is the period from September 28, 2017 to December 31, 2022.

2. For purposes of the settlement, the Court designates named plaintiffs Francisco Hernandez, Carlos Lopez, Ramon Alcala Navarro and Luciano Esqueda as Class Representatives.

3. For purposes of the settlement, the Court designates Scott M. Lidman, Milan Moore, and Tiara Gose-Hardy of Lidman Law, APC and Paul Haines of Haines Law Group, APC as Class Counsel.

4. The Court designates Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the third-party Settlement Administrator for mailing notices.

5. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Court Approved Notice of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval which is attached to the Settlement

as Exhibit A.

6. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Settlement Class regarding the pendency of the action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to members of the Settlement Class, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitutes valid, due, and sufficient notice to all members of the Settlement Class. The form and method of giving notice complies fully with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382, California Civil Code section 1781, California Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, the California and United States Constitutions, and other applicable law.

7. The Court further approves the procedures for Settlement Class Members to opt out of or object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Class Notice.

8. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the Final Fairness Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly presentation of any Settlement Class Member's objection to the Settlement, in accordance with the due process rights of all Settlement Class Members.

9. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packet to the members of the Settlement Class in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

10. The Class Notice shall provide 60 calendar days' notice for members of the Settlement Class to opt out of, or object to, the Settlement.

11. The Final Fairness Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate is scheduled in Department SSC-10 of this Court, located at 312 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012 on _____, 2027 at _____ a.m. / p.m.

12. At the Final Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Settlement Class; (b) whether a judgment granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether Plaintiffs' application for reasonable attorneys' fees, reimbursement of litigation expenses, service awards to Plaintiffs, and payment to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and Aggrieved Employees for penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") should be granted.

13. Counsel for the parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements and materials in support of their request for final approval of the Settlement, attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, Plaintiffs' service awards, settlement administration costs, and payment of PAGA Penalties prior to the Final Fairness Hearing according to the time limits set by the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court.

14. An implementation schedule is below:

Event	**Date**
Defendant to provide Class Data to Settlement Administrator	15 calendar days after issuance of the preliminary approval order
Settlement Administrator to mail Notice Packets to Class Members	14 calendar days after receiving Class Data from Defendant
Deadline for Class Members to request exclusion from, submit disputes, or object to the Settlement	60 calendar days after mailing of the Notice by the Settlement Administrator
Deadline for Plaintiffs to file Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement:	16 court days before the Final Fairness Hearing
Final Fairness Hearing:	_____, 2027

15. Pending the Final Fairness Hearing, all proceedings in this action, other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this Order, are stayed.

16. Counsel for the parties are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable procedures in connection with the administration of the Settlement which are not materially inconsistent with either this Order or the terms of the Settlement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: _____, 2026

_____
Honorable William F. Highberger
Judge of the Superior Court